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When's the right time for a hearing evaluation? Probably sooner than you think.

As the old story goes, there's good news and bad news about hearing loss. The good news is that the human brain – your brain – is amazingly good at adapting to many different kinds of obstacles, including things like hearing loss. You may be suffering from a slight decline right now and be hardly aware of it, because you've found ways to compensate – simple things like turning your head and leaning forward to hear better; or asking people to repeat what they've said; or waiting for the conversation to move on so you can catch up. Maybe you're adapting by simply avoiding social situations like noisy restaurants and parties, where the background noise makes it so hard to understand the conversation that you really have to strain to hear. Still, by coping and adapting, you feel like you're getting by.

KNOW WHAT YOU'RE MISSING.

So what's the bad news? You may be adapting so well that you don't know what you're missing. You're unaware of lost information, lost opportunities, and the lost energy you spend just trying to keep up. You just know that social situations are more tiring than they used to be. Those embarrassing moments when you don't catch someone's name or some other important bit of information are growing more frequent.

If you're like many people with age-related hearing loss, the condition progresses as you get older. And as it progresses, you work harder to cope, maybe without even realizing it. As good as your brain may be at adapting, the

effort it takes tends to diminish the parts of your life that matter most: **sharing with friends and family, keeping ahead in your business, and spending time out in the community.**

People with advanced hearing loss describe this state as a feeling of isolation, of being trapped. They find it physically and emotionally tiring to strain to hear a conversation in a noisy setting. It's just too hard to make the effort. So they give up.

BREAK THROUGH THE ISOLATION WITH NEW HEARING TECHNOLOGY.

There is help for people with hearing loss: a wonderful array of modern hearing solutions that can make it easier to breakthrough the wall of noise and focus on what's important. Modern hearing technology, like the Agil instrument from Oticon, can not only help bring you back to a fuller and more vibrant social life; it can make things like concerts, radio, telephone and TV much more rewarding experiences than ever before.

But what happens is that people tend to put off getting help later than they should. They adapt a little more, and miss out a little more, every year. They don't realize how much they're struggling, and living increasingly isolated lives.

DON'T LET OLD MYTHS ABOUT HEARING AIDS DELAY YOUR CHANCE AT A FULLER LIFE.

There are a variety of reasons that people put off getting help. The main one is a lack of understanding of what modern hearing

technology is and how it helps. We've found that there are at least three big myths that keep people from trying out hearing technology, putting them on the road to years of frustration and isolation instead of a happier life.

MYTH #1

Hearing instruments are just amplifiers... and I don't need more loudness.

Hearing aids used to attempt to help just by upping the volume of every sound. But that's not how it's done today. Devices like Oticon Agil now use the latest breakthroughs in microprocessor design, audio signal processing technology, and materials science, not to indiscriminately raise the volume of what you hear, but to sharpen the focus of what you hear. So you're better able to hone in on a conversation in a wall of party noise, and shift attention from one voice to another as you choose. It becomes easier to understand and respond to a soft, high-pitched voice – a child or an elderly person, for example – because your hearing instrument works to help your brain recognize natural speech cues and keep competing noise less distracting. The new hearing devices even use Bluetooth™ technology which lets you stream sound from a TV, phone, computer, or other Bluetooth device, for a high-end audio entertainment experience.

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Greener pastures
Students participate in Envirothon
Page 8

Exploring grief
Education session for new approaches
Page 16

A dirty job
Wainfleet inspecting its septic systems
Page 10

Easter fire
Blaze sends five to hospital
Page 17

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■ PROTECTED SPECIES

Bald eagles sight for soar eyes

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — People from across Niagara and beyond are flocking to a rural road to catch a glimpse of a rare sight — a pair of bald eagles nesting high up in a tree. All of the attention being paid to the eagles and nest, set back off of Reuter Rd. in swampy land owned by Vale (Inco), hasn't gone unnoticed.

"We were informed by Bird Studies Canada in early March of the new nest site ... the landowner is also aware of the nest," Anne Yagi, Ministry of Natural Resources Niagara office management biologist, said.

see BALD EAGLES | page 3

■ INDUSTRY: Firm busy with global contracts

Thurston Machine creating jobs



DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Thurston Machine did something most companies would never dream of during a recession — spend \$4 million on new machinery and expand its facility.

"We knew things were going to come back with a vengeance, and it did," said Mark Nevar, who along with Mark Yallin, is a division manager at the Port Colborne-based company.

see INDUSTRY | page 2

DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo
Mark Yallin, left, and Mark Nevar, division managers at Thurston Machine, stand in front of a large pulley to be shipped overseas for a mining company. The two men said the company is expanding to a second location in Port Colborne.

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■ INDUSTRY

Thurston expansion calls for secondary facility

FROM PAGE 1

It was the sixth expansion since the company moved from the east side of the city to the industrial area in the north end back in 1980.

Thurston is expanding once again, but this time its run out of room at its Invertoise Dr. facility.

So it purchased a new piece of land — home to a former industrial factory and storage centre — that will see up to 20 new jobs created for skilled tradespeople like millwrights, welders, machinists and fitters when renovations and construction of a new building are complete.

"We made the decision to expand over the Christmas holidays," said Nevar. "Our preference would be to keep everything under one roof, but we just ran out of room here."

Yallin said the land the company is building on, the former Square D factory and recent home to Fontaine Transport, was already zoned industrial. He said it was a good deal and the company couldn't wait to look for other land.

Thurston Machine, which now employs 85 people, only had to apply for a minor variance on the property to allow for the construction of a new building on the southeast corner of Barrick Rd. and Elm St.

Nevar said the choice of the former factory and vacant land was almost a last resort for the company. Moved in 1915, as there was no other industrial land it could have moved in to the city.

"We looked at a nice piece of property in Welland, and



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Land on the southeast corner of Elm St. and Barrick Rd. is being cleared to make way for a new shop for Thurston Machine. Renovations are also being carried out on the neighbouring building, recently owned by Fontaine Transport. Thurston is spending \$11.5 million on the renovations, new building and new machinery and will hire between 15 and 20 people once all the work is complete.

five to 10 years ago we would have jumped all over it," he said.

But with the company's roots in Port Colborne, the two men looked at the former Square D plant.

Yallin didn't realize a brush beside the site was part of the property when they first looked at it. With the bush and existing building, it gave Thurston 11 acres (4.4 hectares) of land to deal with.

The proximity to the Invertoise Dr. location was also a bonus for the company, the two men said.

Tucker Design Build Services will be renovating the former plant, while Timbro Design/Build Construction will construct the new building. The purchase of the land, new machinery and construction of the new building cost \$11.5 million. The two men said.

But it will just more than double the floor space for the company as the new location will see 42,000 square feet of low-roof assembly area and about 40,000 square feet in a large fabrication bay and large assembly bay.

"Esthetically, the building will look very nice. It won't look industrial," said Yallin.

A berm will be built to shield neighbouring properties on Barrick Rd. and the

two men said they'll be giving those neighbours input, as one backs directly onto the property. The two said the new facility, 15 metres high and about 67 metres long, will be quiet; neighbours won't hear much of anything from it.

When work is complete, it will allow the company to keep working with its core business — steel mills, transportation and mining industry.

"Our goal is to be in a com-

pany's supply chain, a Tier 1 supplier to major manufacturers. We're already becoming that," said Nevar. A Tier 1 supplier is a manufacturer who is very high on a company's chain of suppliers.

Though it started off supplying steel mills, Thurston has grown to work with the mining industry, as evidenced by large pieces of machinery in the Invertoise Dr. shop waiting to be taken to mines in Indonesia and other parts of the world.

"We've been working with the mining industry for about 12 years," said Yallin.

"That industry is part of the global market Thurston has tapped into."

"Seventy-five to 80% of our final product is shipped overseas," said Nevar.

Locomotive frames were also sitting in, and outside, the shop and the two said the transportation sector is another area the company has expanded into.

While the expansion will create new jobs, the two said more skilled trades workers are needed not only for Thurston, but for many companies. It's why they support co-op education programs from Port Colborne High School and Eastdale Secondary School in Welland.

"The high and Eastdale still have shops in their schools," said Nevar. "The last five co-op students we had from Port High are now working for us. The three we have now will be hired on at the end of the summer."

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portraits

■ BALD EAGLES

Birds' food supply contaminated

FROM PAGE 1

Yagi said the nest has drawn so much attention because it's so close to a urban area. Birders and the general public have been drawn to the area, and there's also a lot of interest from Americans in the area as the bald eagle is the national symbol of the United States.

While the birds, the first to nest in Port Colborne and only the fifth pair in the Niagara Region-Haldimand County area, have drawn a lot of attention, Yagi said the good news is the nest is set back off the road.

It is a couple of hundred metres back from the road in very swampy land and about 15 metres up a tree.

"The land is clearly marked no trespassing," she said.

There are no trespassing signs every several metres along a barbed wire fence and Vale monitors the area with surveillance cameras.

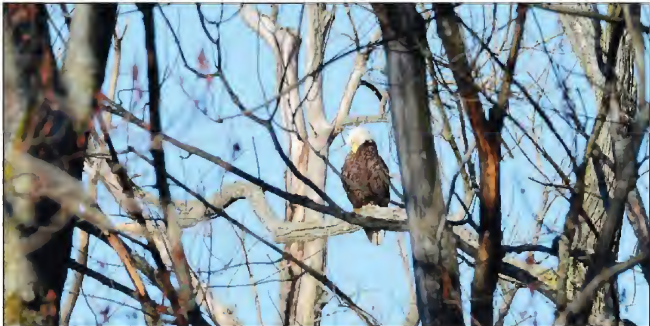
Anyone thinking of trying to get near the nest for an up-close look or to try and get a bald eagle feather could be charged with trespassing and other sanctions as the bird is still a protected species.

All of attention hasn't seemed to put any stress on the bald eagles so far, said Yagi, who added once leaves start to come on in trees, there will be more and more privacy for the birds.

Bald eagles were endangered, but the population has been making a slow comeback. The birds disappeared from the Niagara area in the 1950s and suffered almost complete nest failure along the north shore of Lake Erie in the '80s.

"The first nest in the area was on Navy Island in the 1950s. The tree the nest was in fell down and the birds never re-nested," said Yagi.

She said many factors led to the decline in population, including when Europeans



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

A bald eagle preens itself in a tree near its nest on Vale property in Port Colborne. The Ministry of Natural Resources said it's one of five nesting pairs in the Niagara-Haldimand County area and is attracting a lot of local attention. The bald eagles nest is about 15 metres up in a tree, set in a swampy area.

first settled the area.

"The birds were persecuted ... farmers thought they were eating their stock."

A lot of the bald eagles' habitat was destroyed and the birds were hunted as well.

In addition, their food supply — they mainly eat fish — became contaminated with such chemicals as DDT and PCBs in the Great Lakes.

"Birds were dying off and not living as long, their young weren't surviving either," Yagi said.

When the Endangered Species Act came into effect in the early 1970s, bald eagles were added to the list and protected.

As DDT was banned and PCBs were brought under control, the birds started to make a slow comeback.

In 1983, the Southern Ontario Bald Eagle Monitoring Project was initiated. It is a co-operative venture of the ministry, Canadian Wildlife Service, Bird Studies Canada, community organizations, landowners and volunteer nest monitors.

Yagi said the group brought in bald eagles from northern Ontario and introduced them in the Grand River area. She said the birds already knew they were bald eagles, but were hand fed as they had yet to fledge.

Fledging is when the feathers and wing muscles of birds are sufficiently developed for flight.

Once the bald eagles fledged, they were released into the wild and explored and established their own

territories.

Yagi said with the birds surviving longer, due to the chemicals being removed from their food source, they learned how to parent better.

There were now also more juvenile birds that, once they reached sexual maturity at between five and seven years, started to disperse from the Grand River area.

In 1985, a pair nested in the Dunnville Marsh along the lower Grand River near Strommen. In 2005, a nesting pair was found on Navy Island. Another two pairs were found along the Grand River and, with the addition of the nest in Port Colborne this year, it added up to five nesting pairs in the ministry's Niagara area.

"It's exciting... I expect we'll

find more nests along the north shore of the lake and more in the region," Yagi said.

Bald eagles are no longer considered endangered but are still a protected species. When nests are found, such as the one in Port Colborne, the ministry works with landowners to ensure they are not disturbed and are protected.

"We ask volunteers to monitor the nests for us."

If the bald eagles are successful in hatching young, the babies are not banded as they would have been in the past.

"It's bad for the babies and stressful for the parents," said Yagi, adding the pair in Port Colborne could be banded birds themselves though.

While the nests are not disturbed, the ministry will seek to gain bald eagle feathers

later in the year to check for heavy metal contamination.

"We'll ask Vale (Inco) if we can get access, but we don't want anyone else out there," she said.

Asked if she had heard of other bald eagle nests in Port Colborne, Yagi said she had heard the rumours.

People have claimed there may be a pair in the Wainfleet Bog or Wainfleet wetlands, but she hasn't seen any.

"The bog is not the best habitat for them."

If people are aware of other nests, the ministry would appreciate any information so it can keep track of the population and recovery of the birds.

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ourview

Be respectful

Though many people tried to keep the location of a bald eagles' nest in Port Colborne a secret, word leaked out. It was bound to happen as more and more people were showing up on Reuter Rd., with cameras or binoculars in hand, to view the nest and birds.

We understand the attraction to the birds, after all, they were pretty much wiped out along the north shore of Lake Erie due to many factors. And they are also majestic looking.

To see them make a comeback is a good thing, especially when there are now five pairs in the Niagara Region-Haldimand County area.

Though a Ministry of Natural Resources biologist said the bald eagles don't appear to be stressed out by all of the attention, we have heard crowds of up to 50 people have been seen on the side of the road at times.

Others have driven by honking their horns, which is just plain disrespectful to those who are trying to spot the birds and to the eagles themselves.

Thankfully in the next few weeks leaves will start to fill in on the trees and afford more privacy for the eagles.

We ask those that want to see the eagles to be respectful while out there. Be as quiet as you can and just observe.

Giving back

We'd like to commend Niagara-on-the-Lake Surf Club for its work with the Bert Miller Nature Club last weekend in Sherkston.

The surf club's George Holmes arranged to plant beach grass, with the assistance of the nature club, on sand dunes in the Pleasant Beach area.

While the planting was to go on city-owned land, an insurance issue made the group switch over to land owned by Sherkston Shores.

Regardless of where the beach grass was planted, it was a great idea.

Stabilizing the sand dunes will help keep beaches healthy with a good supply of sand. Healthy dunes and beach grass are also key to the survival of the Potters Toad. The toads feed and forage in the grass and overwinter deep in the dunes.

The work carried out shows that surfers care about more than just waves. They care about the environment and want to ensure there are areas that everyone can enjoy in the future and areas where future generations of surfers can come and catch waves.

I'VE BEEN THINKING

REV. GORD ABRAHAM

Port Colborne Baptist

Over the past two weeks we have been reading articles by my fellow pastors on giving up criticism, complaining, and also about the true meaning of Easter. Adding to this in our post-Easter thinking, we need to take about how the resurrected Jesus can free us from our bondage and prisons.

We have no prison here in Port, but we have lots of Prisoners. There are no guards, guards or prison bars holding us in bondage. Even so there are many in a prison from which there seems no escape. Prisons of habits, actions, words, experiences, hurts, abuse. One prison that holds many of us in bondage is an unforgiving spirit.

One of the greatest needs in our world generally, and in Port Colborne in particular, is the need to forgive and in the process, free ourselves and future generations from the prison of revenge. Most of the ongoing conflicts bearing the fruit of bitterness, revenge and even violence, are perpetuated because there is no breakthrough of forgiveness. Many relationships, including marriages, right here in our "peaceful city" are filled with rancor, hatred and hurt. We may say, "I cannot and will not forgive someone who has done something to me," "I always see that person before me and I see the pain from the abuse, the words, the hitting, the mocking is so real that I still feel it." I want to see that person

readers' views

Pension change hits working stiffs

The working stiffs took it on the chin again last week thanks to the federal budget, and will now have to work longer before qualifying for an old age pension.

Everybody except the politicians in Ottawa, Oh sorry, I forgot. They are not working stiffs.

"I'm at the point where I wonder why I bother to vote when we always end up with some clown whose performance compared to pre-election promises is the only incident."

I am truly disgusted.

Hank Bangild

Port Colborne

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Port Colborne's big need

get their just dues." "I sometimes wish real harm would come on them for the suffering they have caused me." They go on with their life as if nothing has been done and here I am agonizing in all this pain, turmoil and hatred. I will never forgive them!" "My life is messed up! I sometimes even wish they were dead!" See the prison you are in? No bars, no guards but a prison no less!

Jesus tells a story to his disciples in response to a question, "how many times shall I forgive someone who sins against me? Up to seven times?" (Matthew 18:21) The story gives us a practical example of a man owing his master a debt, which was too big to repay in a lifetime. He throws himself at the mercy of the master, begging the master, for more time to repay. Debtors are always optimistic. The master took pity on him, without any reason to forgive, and tells the debtor that he is free from the debt-all is forgiven. Forgiving this debt cost the master the loss of all the money. He paid the debt to himself. Immediately the forgiven one goes out, grabs another man and owes him a few dollars and chokes him. While ignoring the pleas for forgiveness he drags him off to prison.

When the master hears of this he is furious and calls in the forgiven debtor accuses him of abusing his forgiveness and calls for him to be "tortured until he should pay back all he owes."

Jesus, in concluding this story, makes an interesting declaration. He says, "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your

brother from your heart." (Matthew 18:35) I believe Jesus is giving us insight as to how we will be tortured internally, emotionally and relationally until we choose to forgive. We will live in turmoil, bitterness, irritability and anger that we could be released from by forgiving the other person. They may not even ask for it or know that you are suffering. They do not even have to come back to us grovelling and begging for forgiveness in order for us to give it.

It may mean that we first have to come to God to receive his forgiveness. The scriptures tell us "if we confess our sins, He (God through Jesus) will forgive us of our sins and cleanse us of all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). Without God's forgiveness through Jesus Christ, we cannot go to others who have offended. Instead of wanting to choke them in retaliation, if we can forgive them as God has forgiven us because of Jesus Christ.

When we forgive, we are not saying "my pain means nothing." We are not saying, "what you did to me doesn't need to be dealt with justly." We are not saying that what has happened will be forgotten.

What we are saying is, "I release myself of the desire for revenge, and I will no longer let my bitterness control my life. I will acknowledge my pain and suffering for what you did to me and leave justice and retaliation to God!"

With God's forgiveness, received through Jesus Christ, I am now free to forgive others and be released. Try it! It does work!

Moreover, while there are still elements of society that adhere to bizarre practices, most of us would allow that cruelty to sentient beings is never warranted and is patently immoral.

We have therefore placed immense distance between the cruel acts of terror perpetrated by societies of the Middle Ages and ourselves in the 21st century.

This was a gradual process, nevertheless, and provided sanity continued to prevail and the generals are not allowed free reign we may find ourselves living in peaceful coexistence with other sentient beings for the foreseeable future.

Ronald J MacPherson
Port Colborne

continued on page 5

Seeking peaceful coexistence

With the winding down of the Afghan war let's hope a less strident attitude prevails and decisions to go to war once more in the Middle East, Iran or anywhere else will be tempered with thoughtful considerations based on facts, not fantasy.

In the Middle Ages people were entertained by the spectacle of public hangings, burning of witches, heretics and those people who would not conform.

Our sensibilities have hitherto become more in tune with the true nature of matters concerning the improbable and fanciful today such that burning is now less popular.

■ readers' views

FROM PAGE 4

Time to get out of fighter deal
I continue to be amazed we are still talking about the F-35 stealth fighter as a replacement of our fleet of F-18s, with a replacement window of about 10 years.

At the current rate of the development of this aircraft, 10 years sounds about right and with the cost escalations they will cost about \$200 million per copy at that time. Current estimates are about \$75 million.

This aircraft has been a total disaster from the get-go and many of our allies are cutting back the size of their orders due to delays and as mentioned the tremendous cost over-runs. The Americans are even withholding some of the developmental software due to security concerns (so much for Allies trust).

In fact some software (i.e. the stealth component) will not be ready for their orders due to delays into the future and from what I read and hear it is suspect at best and unreliable at worst. We had this aircraft pushed down our throats by the Americans who realized costs were out of control and they needed help to continue development. The developer of this aircraft is also the developer

of the infamous hangar queen the F-22 Raptor.

I sent an e-mail to Defence Minister Peter MacKay in early December outlining areas of concern with this aircraft, namely constant delay in producing test planes, tension between the U.S. Department of Defence and the contractor who consistently missed objectives.

It is my understanding we have not signed any firm contracts to buy the aircraft. Based on contractor performance and various defence and aircraft experts' opinions, let's get out while the getting is good. Don't get too hung up on the dollars expended to date this research will be recovered on development of attack and recon drones which will be the next iteration of the fifth generation fighters.

Mr. MacKay, let's get the F-18 E/F fighter the latest iteration of our F-18s when the time comes to replace the current fleet.

We have already spent approximately \$1.8 billion on a refit and upgrade of the current fleet. Northrup are in build mode for the E/F model so we can phase in our requirements as needed.

John C Duquette
Port Colborne

■ COLUMN

Non-Sporting Group 6 Dogs from Tibet

The Tibetan Mastiff is believed to be the breed that all the Mastiff type dogs of today descended from. Great Danes, St. Bernards, Newfoundland Dogs are all Mastiff types.

In the 13th century when the explorer named Marco Polo travelled to Tibet he saw these huge Tibetan Mastiffs chained outside the entrances to the monasteries. Marco Polo claimed that they were the size of donkeys. These dogs were fierce guard dogs used to protect the Monks from enemies trying to break into the monasteries. Even today these dogs are huge weighing 130 pounds or more. They are not suited to city life as they like to sleep all day and bark all night. They do not like to be confined in a fenced or kennel yard and work at breaking out. Although totally devoted and



Sandie Bingley
IT'S A DOGS LIFE

gentle with their own family they still have strong guarding instincts, stubborn and even a challenge for experienced dog owners.

Although the Tibetan Mastiff was the outside guard, the Lhasa Apso was the inside guard for the monasteries. These dogs have been in existence since 800 BC. They were named after Hsiao which is the capital city of Tibet. They were never sold but were only given as gifts as a special present to rulers of nearby countries. The Lhasa Apso did not come to the Western world until the 1900's. They are a little bigger than a Shih

Tzu and have a longer nose. With the Lhasa Apso's excellent hearing and quickness to alert, they were known as the "Bark Lion Sentinel Dog".

The Tibetan Spaniel is the smallest of the Tibetan dogs. He is not really a spaniel and has no interest in hunting and retrieving game. He got the word "spaniel" because he has a cute spaniel type face. So the word "spaniel" became part of the name when it was translated into English. These alert little dogs had extremely good eye sight and hearing. They were used to run around the top edges of the monasteries to see and hear the enemies approaching. They are not guard dogs but only let the monks know of approaching threats so the guard dogs could take action.

see BINGLEY | page 6

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■ BINGLEY

Shih Tzus were Chinese royalty

FROM PAGE 5

The Tibetan Spaniels were also used as bed warmers for the monks in cold weather and also as comfort when the monks were sick.

The Tibetan Terrier was also misnamed as he is not a terrier. He got the name as he was about the size of most terriers. But he has no interest in digging, hunting and killing rodents. If fact he would much rather be herding dog working on the farms of the monks. Because of his long wavy rough coat he looked like the small Tibetan goats. So he was nicknamed "the goat dog" and he probably

herded them as well. They were highly thought of and only given away as gifts on rare occasions.

It was believed that they would bring good luck to their owners so they were considered very valuable. Because of this they stayed in Tibet and the countries nearby.

The last Tibetan dog had its start with the Tibetan Lhasa Apso dogs that were given to the royals in China. The Shih Tzu that we know today was developed in China by breeding the Pekingese dogs with the Lhasa Apso from Tibet to develop a new breed. The words Shih Tzu

is Chinese for Tibetan Lion Dog. The Chinese groomed their dogs to look like little lions. The Shih Tzu lived a pampered life in the palaces of Chinese royalty. They were favourite pets because of their sweet, friendly temperaments. In 1920 some Shih Tzu dogs were brought to Britain and then later they came to North America.

Today even though they need regular trips to the grooming shops to keep them looking nice, they have become one of the most popular family house pets.

Next Time: Non-Sporting Breeds from Japan and China

■ COLUMN

Appreciate your grandparents

Grandparents are great for many reasons.

Grandparents are the people who pinch your cheeks and hide candy in their pockets for when you visit. They're the people who may not necessarily be in the best health, but always find the strength to reach out and give you a hug while sitting in a rocking chair while watching their daily fix of The Golden Girls.

They are the foundation of a growing family. But most importantly, grandparents are the people who love you even when it feels like no one else in the world does.

The thing I most admire about my grandparents generation is that they seemed to take their time in life. There was no rush or pressure to do what we do today — drive fast, eat fast, and go through life without appreciating the little things.

There was once a time



Michelle Pressé
CANADIAN
GIRL/ITALIAN
LIVING

in life where people didn't depend on their BlackBerry or the McDonald's Drive Thru to keep them entertained and on schedule.

The era that my grandparents grew up in is so fascinating to me because I know I will never be able to live in a society such as they did. They don't exist anymore.

Today's society has become engulfed with the fear of aging. To many, aging means wrinkles, cellulite, and false teeth. We believe we won't feel as powerful or as beautiful as we do in our youth, and the fact that we aren't getting any younger is a reality that we aren't willing to face.

Maya Angelou was interviewed by Oprah Winfrey in April of 2008, who described the process of aging as "exciting." When Winfrey asked Angelou what made it exciting, she responded by saying, "My breasts. They seem to be in a race to see which will reach my waist first!"

If a person does not age, that means that there is no birthday. With no birthday, that means that a person can no longer live (or celebrate by eating birthday cake, the deepest of tragedies).

The most fulfilling feeling in the world is seeing the twinkle in a grandparent's eyes upon visiting them. They are always willing to offer their wisdom and life experiences with today's generation, while secretly worried about our generation and what's to come after.

see PRESSÉ | page 7

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■ **PRESSÉ**

Grandparents not to be taken for granted

FROM PAGE 6

I am fortunate because I grew up knowing each of my grandparents. Three are still alive today, and being apart from them for almost a year has been an awakening in my relationships with them.

In my opinion, a person should visit their grandparent as often as possible. Have a cup of tea, sit on their porch and listen to their stories. Go for a walk with them in a picturesque part of town that neither of you have ever been to. If you aren't able to see them due to distance, pick up the phone or write them a letter.

Not only will it make their day, but when the day comes that you can no longer have a conversation with them or see their face again, you won't be looking back with regrets.

■ **WALLS CLOSING IN ON HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTRE**

DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Workers get ready to install side panels by the pool area at the Vale Health and Wellness Centre in Port Colborne on April 3. The project is still on schedule and the centre is expected to open this fall.

The Healthy Cupboard

"It works! I'd take another two bottles please!"

This coming from a customer who had tried every other natural remedy under the sun in the past few years to take away her pain. In fact, the owner of The Healthy Cupboard couldn't believe his ears.

He had finally found the perfect product to stop his customer's miseries. This is what every owner of a health food store dreams about, a natural product that receives so many outstanding testimonials on such a wide variety of health issues. "I had recommended a new product called LeafSource, which we recently started carrying. We have had tremendous success with this product, and almost everyone we have recommended it to over the last few months has come back and thanked us over and over again!" said Ian. Before trying LeafSource, the woman had complained about her ongoing joint pain and was at her wit's end. Although she had experienced some relief through the numerous natural remedies she had tried over the years, the pain would never fully go away. "She returned to my store, in tears, less than one week after buying LeafSource. I didn't know what to make of this woman standing in front of me crying, until she told me that within a few days of

LeafSource STOPS PAIN WITHIN DAYS!

of taking LeafSource her pain started to disappear and within a week it was completely gone - as if it was never there." Ian goes on, "This coming from a woman whose painful joints and ongoing sciatica were so bad just one week earlier, that the pain was unbearable but now has completely subsided." By now you are probably wondering what is LeafSource and why is it so effective? LeafSource is a 100% natural product derived from a proprietary organic mineral composite with over ten years of university research. LeafSource helps regulate the inflammatory process and the body's ability to repair itself. The vast majority (70 - 80%) of the population over the age of 50 have joint problems — often called osteoarthritis. This is due to the natural (or unnatural) wear and tear on joint tissue that develops through the aging process. With joint inflammation, movement is limited and pain can be constant. LeafSource seems to have the ability to help people get their mobility and zest for life back. Millions of people seek treatment for their joint and inflammation problems by resorting to expensive, toxic prescription drugs (i.e. NSAIDs) with multiple side effects. These range from nausea and vomiting to serious intestinal

disorders (bleeding, gas, pain) and even kidney and liver failure. Isn't that too large a price to pay for a little pain relief? LeafSource is a safe alternative to these destructive anti-inflammatory drugs that cause more problems than they solve. There are absolutely no side effects and it doesn't interfere with any other medications. Controlled experiments and observations have revealed that LeafSource is a potent anti-inflammatory that has been shown to bring a reduction to inflammation and pain within a few days. People notice great results in terms of more energy and less pain by taking anywhere from 2 to 6 capsules/day. Typical maintenance is usually 1 capsule twice daily. This product gets results! LeafSource is scientifically validated through more than 10 years of research at 4 universities, including the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Mercer University. Aside from its incredible anti-inflammatory and pain reducing ability, it has also been shown to improve the performance of your daily nutrition and vitamin programs. It helps increase the absorption of vital nutrients, which in turn helps these nutrients work better. Better absorption = better results! It's almost as if they have become supercharged.

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LeafSource has also been shown to help enhance energy levels, improve intestinal health, strengthen hair, skin and nails and improve immune function. To see someone go from intense pain to a new lease on life within a week is truly incredible. Imagine being able to move freely without pain. Who wouldn't want to get out of bed in the morning with more energy? It's amazing how much of this stuff we take for granted, until it's gone! Ian adds, "I often recommend that LeafSource be taken with other natural joint products in order to help them work better and provide even faster relief. One of the things I hear most often from people who have tried LeafSource is they just plain feel better, have more energy and less pain. We're so confident, we guarantee LeafSource 100%! That alone should be enough to try this incredible product."

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■ ENVIROTHON



Getting to know Mother Nature

FROM PAGE 8

The provincial competition is organized by Ontario Forestry Association. It will be held at Tim Hortons Onondaga Farms in St. George.

NPCA forestry technician Amy Brant was running the wildlife station at the Wainfleet envirothon.

"Students seem keen to learn and keen to participate. I think the stuff that they are learning is beneficial for them and to get them out in the field is something different from their everyday school

stuff," she said.

One of the envirothon's goals is to educate youth about career options while getting them interested in the different aspects of the environment and teaching them how to respect it.

"I just want (students) to gain an interest in at least one subject," Royer said. "And hopefully get them to go on and learn more about it. I'm hoping that this competition opens their eyes to various careers that they can get into with regards to the environment."

Hayley Arts, a 16-year-old Grade 11 student at Ridgeway-Crystal Beach High School, said the younger generation must make positive changes for the environment.

VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo
Sierra Barrett, a Grade 12 student from Beamsville District Secondary School, learns about different aspects of nature while at Jericho House in Wainfleet, during the region's Envirothon.



VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo
Dylan Booth, of Saint Michael Catholic High School in Niagara Falls, learns about different aspects of nature.

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■ **DIRTY JOB:** Caitlin Wood has heard all the wisecracks

Wainfleet septic system inspections to start in June

ALLAN BENNER
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — It's a dirty job, but someone's got to do it.

Caitlin Wood has heard a lot of similar wisecracks since landing a job as Wainfleet's senior private sewage system inspector in January.

After all, it can be a down right poop job at times.

"When you look in a tank and it's dirty or a vent's failing, there's dirt and sludge on the ground, you just have to watch where you walk," she said.

Wood is primarily interested in the ultimate goal of the work she's doing — restoring a badly-contaminated aquifer in Wainfleet's lakeshore area.

"I like the environment and I like doing my due diligence for it," she said.

Inspections are being carried out as an alternative to "the big pipe," the multimillion-dollar proposal by Niagara Region to extend municipal water and sewer lines from Port Colborne to Wainfleet's lakeshore area. As part of that alternative plan, the township took over responsibility for regulating

septic systems in January.

Starting in June, Wood and at least one yet-to-be-hired inspector will need to assess the condition of about 1,200 septic beds and sewage holding tanks in the area, identifying the ones that have been leaking E. coli and other contaminants into the groundwater that supplies wells.

The township hopes to inspect about 400 systems in each of the next three years to get through them all. And once that's done, it'll start all over again, said Wainfleet's operations director, Greg Wuisman.

In addition to inspecting the septic systems along the lakeshore, there will be as many as 100 inspections conducted a year of new septic systems throughout the township, as well as real estate inspections.

"Anyone who's building a new house and they put in a new septic system, Caitlin does four inspections per new septic system," Wuisman said.

That's about 500 inspections a year in total. But Wuisman suspects there will likely be even more inspections than that.

see **SEPTIC SYSTEMS** | page 11



ALLAN BENNER Staff Photo

Wainfleet's senior private sewage system inspector Caitlin Wood will be extremely busy in the months and years to come, assessing the condition of 1,200 septic systems at homes in the township's lakeshore area.

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■ **SEPTIC SYSTEMS**

Inspections carried out to cleanse aquifer

FROM PAGE 10

"On top of that, I think the 400 inspections are going to generate a bunch of extra repair permits. What that will do to the 100 inspections, I have no idea. It might triple it. I'm definitely expecting the 100 number to go up."

Wood said only septic systems that were built or inspected within the past three years will be exempt from the first round of inspections.

"It gives (owners) credit for improving their system," she said.

During inspections, Wood will look inside septic tanks to make sure they're functioning correctly. If there's an odour, visible sludge or if the ground surrounding the tank feels spongy, it could indicate that the system is leaking.

mandated public meeting will also give residents a chance to share their thoughts or concerns about the charges, that he said.

He said Wainfleet treasurer Robyn Madere "went through a lot of effort to come up with that (\$550) number."

"She looked at all the expenses in that department, wages, cost of the pickup trucks, computers the whole works and ground down the numbers and came up with the figure of \$550."

Compared to the potential costs related to the Big Pipe, he said \$550 inspections are a pretty good deal.

Even if the inspector determines that a whole new septic system is required, it could still be cheaper than the servicing solution alternative.

"I attended a lot of meetings



Wuisman



Madere

owners) might have been only paying a third of that if they got two-thirds funding."

Nevertheless, Wuisman suspects some residents might be less than co-operative — particularly

people who know they have leaking systems.

"We're not expecting Caitlin to be on everybody's Christmas card list," he said.

"There are cases out there where we have failing systems directly beside wells. There are people drawing water out of those wells, and there's people beside them contaminating the aquifer. Those are the sort of things we want to stop."

But ultimately, when the first round of inspections are complete, the aquifer should be clean.

"We want to clean up the aquifer. The aquifer is contaminated. Our engineering goal is to cleanse that

aquifer. Once it's cleaned, we can then ask to have the boil water advisory lifted," Wuisman said.

"That's the final big picture goal," he said.

The township's lakeshore area has been under a public health department boil water advisory since April 2006.

alan.benner@wellandtribune.ca



inport.news@sunmedia.ca

We're not expecting Caitlin to be on everybody's Christmas card list."

Greg Wuisman,
Wainfleet's operations director

If the homeowners are there, Wood said they will be asked if they've experienced any problems with the system.

Usually, the answer is "no," but if they don't even know where their system is, that might be a red flag and you have to look from there," said Wood, who has a university degree in geography and environmental studies, and a college certificate in environmental management and assessment, as well as training specific to inspecting septic systems.

Although the septic system inspections will be far less expensive than installing municipal services, there will be costs associated with the inspection program.

The township has organized a public meeting, as part of its April 10 council meeting, to discuss mandatory inspections and the \$550 cost of the inspections that property owners will have to pay.

Wuisman said the provincially



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■ MEETING

Anglers reeling in big fish on Lake Erie

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Anglers are catching big perch and walleye on Lake Erie and the next couple of years are expected to be good for the fishery, too, said Alfred Marinelli.

Marinelli, a member of Port Colborne and District Conservation Club and the Ministry of Natural Resources Lake Erie Management Unit, said some of the perch and walleye being caught on the lake now come from the 2009 year class.

"That year class is phenom-

enal for every type of fish out there."

He said there's a pretty good fishery right now on Lake Erie.

And the state of that fishery will be discussed at the 2012 Eastern Lake Erie Angler Outreach Meeting later this month.

Ministry staff will take about the fishery, health of the lake and status of the fish stocks for 2012 at the meeting on Wednesday, April 18 at St. Patrick's Church Hall, 123 King St., Port Colborne.

Marinelli said it's been a few years since an angler outreach meeting has been held.

In years past, ministry staff would come to Port Colborne once a year to speak with anglers about the lake and the fishery and answer any questions they had.

"We got the meetings going again this year. I think it's important people know what's going on in the lake,"

he said.

In addition to ministry staff, Don Einhouse, a biologist with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, will be at the meeting to talk about things on the U.S. side of the lake.

see **FISHING** | page 13



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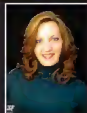
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■ FISHING

Anglers in U.S. waters travelling farther for perch

FROM PAGE 12

U.S. waters are where anglers fishing for perch off of Fort Erie have had to travel to catch the fish.

"The perch aren't coming close into shore like they used to."

Anglers are having to go down as deep as 20 metres

to catch them and, said Marinelli, ministry staff aren't exactly sure why the fish are in deeper waters.

The fish are eating well and actually feed on one of the invasive species in the lake, zebra mussels. At past outreach meetings, ministry staff and anglers have discussed

"Thankfully there's no sign of (Asian) carp in the lake yet."

Alfred Marinelli

invasive species like zebra and quagga mussels, round gobies and ruff.

"Thankfully there's no sign

of (Asian) carp in the lake yet," said Marinelli.

The Asian carp are an invasive species on the brink of

expanding into the Great Lakes. The invasive species consumes large amounts of food, can weigh up to 50 kilograms and be more than one metre in length. It is feared if they make their way into the Great Lakes, they could become the dominate species and ruin the ecosystem.

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■ LAKESHORE: Wall put inside stairwell



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

From left, Katrina Buttigieg, Alicia Pinelli and Kelsey Standen stand in front of the "secrets wall" inside Lakeshore Catholic High School. As of Wednesday the wall had upwards of 75 sticky note messages written anonymously by students, and some staff, sharing their hopes, fears, thoughts and dreams.

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Some secrets are worth sharing

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE
— YOLO.

It was a word that appeared twice on a "secrets" wall inside a back stairway at Lakeshore Catholic High School.

Alicia Pinelli didn't know what the word meant until she Googled it.

"It means You Only Live Once," the Grade 12 student said.

It was one of many messages, upwards of 75, written on sticky notes that ended up on the wall. Messages written anonymously by students, and some staff, at the Port Colborne school.

Messages sharing their hopes, fears, thoughts and dreams.

Pinelli hadn't planned on the wall or planned for the popularity of it, she only wanted to complete her audio-visual class project.

"I was going to make a music video about how students feel in school, what they're thinking... give them the opportunity to tell how they really feel without being exposed."

She said once a few stickers — written by herself and friends Katrina Buttigieg, and

Kelsey Standen — were on the wall, it spiralled into more than just a class project.

"We put up three or four of our own long ones, personal ones we felt strongly about. The feeling we got when burdens or secrets were lifted was amazing."

Once theirs were up, other students started commenting and writing their own notes, long and short ones.

"Students were telling us how they felt and how the other notes made them feel better and good about themselves. They'd look at the wall and comment, 'Me too,' or 'I feel that way.'"

Pinelli said those comments really made the wall pick up.

The submissions were all anonymous yet powerful, many students stopped just to read the wall."

She said students no longer felt they were the only ones going through certain situations or dealing with problems, like figuring out how to pay for university. They knew others felt the same or were in the same situation without having to expose themselves.

"A lot of the notes were about worrying about the future... others were about following your dreams, being yourself and expressing who

you are. At the wall social status no longer mattered, only how people truly felt inside," said Pinelli.

Even with many personal messages on the wall, there were some that were not very personal, but still let students get out how the felt. Some of the messages were somewhat funny as well, things like 'I like chocolate banana popicles,' 'I hate pants' and 'I like pies,' bringing a lighthearted feel to the wall.

Pinelli, Buttigieg and Standen started the wall on Tuesday, April 3 after the school's social worker thought it would be great way for students to express themselves.

Many of the students asked if the wall would be kept up. It won't be, as the messages come down today.

The notes, they said, won't be thrown away. Instead they are being saved to be used in a presentation for Easter.

Pinelli still intends to put a video together at some point with footage she shot on Tuesday. The video will only show what various students wanted to show. In some cases, their faces or messages will not be visible.

dave.johnson@sunmedia.ca
Twitter: @DaveJTheTribune

■ YARD SALE: Donations welcome for May event

Old bottles and toys to aid feral cat initiative

VICTORIA GRAY
InPort Staff

PORT COLBORNE — The Port Colborne Feline Initiative will host its biannual yard sale and bottle drive next month in support of its spay and neuter clinic, Operation CatSnaps.

The event will be held at St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church Hall on King St. on Saturday, May 5, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Donations for the yard sale and alcohol bottles and

cans for the bottle drive can be dropped off at the hall on Friday, May 4, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Yard sale donations can include children's toys and household knick knacks, gently used furniture and anything that can fetch a price to help support the clinic.

PCFI vice president Wendy Ross says feral cat colonies can grow very quickly.

"Each time a cat is spayed or neutered, the birth rate is lowered significantly, resulting in fewer homeless, aban-

doned or euthanized cats and kittens."

Without the spay and neuter clinic PCFI wouldn't be able to reduce the number of kittens feral colonies produce in the area.

"It's really important to stop their breeding to reduce the number of cats living outdoors and suffering," she says.

The organization has put more than 400 cats through the trap, neuter and release program and has helped find permanent homes for 40 cats and kittens.

■ **NEW STORE:** Making sport affordable

Grinding a new Port niche

VICTORIA GRAY
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Josh Alek started skateboarding when he was 13 years old. It made him feel free and kept him out of trouble.

He wants to share that freedom through his new store, Presidents Skate Shop, inside Play Hard Niagara on Main St. in Port Colborne.

"It's a huge adrenaline rush when you land tricks," he said. "It feels good to land something you haven't before because it gives you a sense of accomplishment."

Randy Ryerson, owner of Play Hard Niagara and R-Ride Niagara, saw an opportunity to break into the skateboarding market in Port Colborne — and especially now that a park at Lock 8 is on its way and there were no other shops in Port Colborne.

"We want to make it affordable for everyone," Alek said. "We're trying to price things so everyone can be involved."

"If they are skating they aren't vandalizing things."

Josh Alek, owner of Presidents Skate Shop

The store has built up its inventory over the past month it has operated. Ryerson and Alek are building a half-pipe behind the store where skaters can hang out, and even get lessons.

"It can be very intimidating to go to a skate park if you don't know what you're doing, especially if other skaters are around," Alek said. "I want to share that sense of accomplishment and what I've learned over the years."

Alek and his associate, Victor Hood, hope to give lessons at a very minimal cost.

Ryerson and Alek believe skateboarding, like many other sports, help keep children and young adults out of trouble.

Parents have come into the store and thanked the two for building the half-pipe, they said, because their children have been issued tickets for skateboarding downtown.

"If they are skating they aren't vandalizing things," Alek said.

victoria.gray@sunmedia.ca
Twitter: @VixeyG



VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo

Kassandra Ryerson, and Josh Alek, owner of Presidents Skate Shop in Port Colborne, inside Play Hard Niagara.



VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo

Alek hopes to share his love of skateboarding with the community by offering a half-pipe to hang out on and skateboarding lessons in addition to skateboarding paraphernalia.

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- Use one of the new \$2 tags or
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(\$1 tags will not expire)

\$2 tags will be available starting April 27 at retail locations across Niagara. Visit our website for a full list of retail locations.

Residents with a medical exemption can use their existing tags and continue to place a single tag on extra garbage bags or cans.

Single family homes and apartments with six units or less may place Blue and Grey Box recyclables and Green Bin materials out in unlimited quantities every week.

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■ BEREAVEMENT: Education session later this month



Supplied photo

Beth Bailey, left, and Marry Williams-Balodis are the founders of The Hummingbird Centre for Hope. They are featured presenters at the annual Bereavement Education Day to be held at Four Points Suites in Thorold on Friday, April 27.

New approaches to grief to be explored

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

THOROLD — It's been 25 years since Bereavement Resources Council of Niagara began providing much-needed support for people experiencing loss.

And the need is just as great now as it was when the council began more than two decades ago.

To assist people working in the grief counselling field, BRCN will host its annual Bereavement Education Day April 27 at Four Points by Sheraton on Schmon Pkwy. in Thorold.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. followed by workshops from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$85 a person, which includes a buffet luncheon and all-day refreshments and snacks. About 65 people are expected to attend.

The day is an opportunity for people working in the field to come together, learn new approaches and network with one another, council past-president Nancy Riou said.

Morning workshops New Perspectives on Grief Support and I Choose the Red Shoes will be led by Dr. Bill Webster, founder and executive director of The Centre for the Grief Journey.

In addition to facilitating grief support programs in numerous communities, Webster offers individual and family grief counselling. He also conducts professional seminars and educational programs regarding grief in both North American and Britain. Webster is a member of the Association for Death Education and Grief Counselling,

which recently awarded him the prestigious Fellow in Thanatology from the University of Illinois in recognition of his work and his contribution to the field of grief counselling.

In the afternoon, founders of The Hummingbird Centre for Hope, Beth Bailey and Marry Williams-Balodis, will present Finding Hope in Widowhood, which addresses the journey of their personal loss.



Webster

Topics will include the unique aspects of young widowhood, parenting the grieving child, redefining the self, the choices to be made and how to keep the door open to hope.

Bailey and Williams-Balodis will also touch on their experiences at Camp Widow through the Soaring Spirits Loss Foundation.

It's crucial that bereavement support resources remain available in the community, said Riou, who facilitates a support group at St. Kevin's church in Welland on the second and fourth Thursday of every month from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. It's an opportunity for people to share their stories and speak about how loss has impacted their lives. Riou said, calling it an important part of the healing process.

For more information on the support group or on BRCN's Education Day, contact Riou at 905-732-3969.

■ **FIRE:** Five treated and released from hospital in Port Colborne blaze

Bunny rescued from Easter fire

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — A fire early last Sunday morning that sent five people to hospital is under investigation by Niagara Regional Police, the Ontario Fire Marshal and Port Colborne Fire and Emergency Services investigators.

Port Colborne fire Chief Tom Cartwright said the fire, at 101 King St., was reported Easter Sunday at 12:07 a.m.

He said three adults and two young children were taken to hospital to be observed

for possible smoke inhalation as a result of the blaze. All five were later released, suffering no injuries.

Also rescued from the duplex were two dogs, four cats and a rabbit.

When firefighters arrived on scene, an orange glow was reported coming from the first unit in the duplex. Twenty-five professional and volunteer firefighters quickly knocked the fire down.

"The guys did a great job. They got water on it quickly and prevented it from getting a foothold in the second floor."

Cartwright said no one was home in the first duplex as it was undergoing renovations. He said sofas in that apartment were stacked up and covered in plastic and that could have made the fire much worse had firefighters not contained it so quickly.

He believes the 911 call was made by someone in the second apartment, where people from the first unit were staying with neighbours.

"It appears there were no working smoke alarms in either unit."

Cartwright said depending on the investigation, charges could be laid against the property owner or the tenants for not having working alarms.

Firefighters were on scene until 3 a.m. and damage is estimated at \$75,000.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

A Port Colborne Fire and Emergency Services firefighter can be seen spraying water inside the doorway of a home on King St. early Sunday morning. The cause of the \$75,000 fire is under investigation.



Cartwright

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■ SURFING

Volunteers plant beach grass on Pleasant Beach dune

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE —
Surfers like good waves, but

they also like great beaches.
Last weekend, surfers from
the Niagara-on-the-Lake
Surf Club teamed up with
the Bert Miller Nature Club

to ensure one of the beaches
they surf off of remains
stable. About a dozen surfers,
their friends and family and
nature club members spent a

couple hours planting beach
grass on a dune at Pleasant
Beach, on Sheraton Shores
property.

"We want good healthy

dunes," George Holmes, of
the Niagara-on-the-Lake Surf
Club, said.

The grass acts like a snow
fence, causing sand to pile

up behind it and for dunes
to grow. The grass spreads its
roots widely throughout the
sand, stabilizing dunes and
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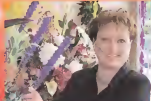
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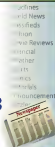
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■ **SHAW FESTIVAL:** Program comes to Port High

DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Actress Patty Jamieson, who plays Mother in the musical Ragtime currently showing at Shaw Festival Theatre in Niagara-on-the-Lake, speaks to Port Colborne High School drama students who are seeing the musical next week and took part in a workshop about it Wednesday at the high school.

Actress delivers history lesson

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Actress Patty Jamieson gave Port Colborne High School drama students a little history lesson before taking them through some acting exercises last week.

Jamieson plays Mother in the musical Ragtime, now showing at Shaw Festival Theatre in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Ragtime tells the story of three groups in the U.S. represented by Coalhouse Walker Jr., a Harlem musician; Mother, the matriarch of a white upper-class family in New Rochelle, N.Y.; and Tateh, a Latvian Jewish immigrant. It's set in the early 1900s, at a time when many immigrants were

making their way to America and New York City.

During the artist-in-the-class workshop, a program run by Shaw Festival, students learned some history of the period, about ragtime music and what living and social conditions were like for some people during that time period.

Suzanne Merriam, education manager at Shaw, said the workshop program funded by the Halo Foundation sees the theatre link up with District School Board of Niagara to bring it to six schools.

"It gives students, who may not get the opportunity, a chance to see the theatre at a world-class calibre," she said.

see **SHAW FESTIVAL** | page 23

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Proposed Regional Policy Plan Amendment I-2012 Niagara's Economic Gateway Zone and Centre

Proposed Change

The Region's Growth Management Strategy, Niagara 2031 includes policies which implement the Provincial Growth Plan's Economic Gateway Zone and Centre designations. RPPA I-2012, Niagara's Economic Gateway Zone and Centre Amendment provides strategic direction for the development of employment lands within the Gateway and outlines a land use strategy to support economic development and job creation in these areas.

Niagara Region has prepared a draft Amendment including policies and mapping for RPPA I-2012 to include into the Regional Policy Plan which can be viewed at (www.niagararegion.ca).

Have Your Say

Public input on this proposed amendment is welcomed and encouraged. You can provide input by speaking at the public meeting or by making a written submission to the Region. Please note that unless you do one of the above, you may not be able to appeal the decision later.

Written Submission

To provide input in writing or to request personal notice if the proposed change is adopted, please send a letter c/o Regional Clerk, Niagara Region, 2201 St. David's Road, P.O. Box 1042, Thorold, Ontario L2V 4T7, or email kevin.bain@niagararegion.ca.

Public Meeting

This public meeting is being held under the provisions of Section 17 of the Planning Act at the following time and place:

Date: Wed., April 25, 2012

Time: 1 p.m.

Location: Niagara Region Headquarters -

Campbell West Building

Council Chambers

2201 St. David's Road, Thorold, ON

More Information

For more information about the proposed Amendment please contact Brian Dick, Senior Planner, MCIP, RPP by phone at (905) 685-1571, ext. 3365, or by email at brian.dick@niagararegion.ca.

A copy of the proposed Amendment and information and materials related to the Amendment are available for inspection in the Integrated Community Planning Department at the above address Monday to Friday between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm.

Special accessibility accommodations and materials in alternate formats can be arranged by contacting the Niagara Region's Accessibility Advisory Coordinator at 905-685-4225 ext. 3252 or accessibility@niagararegion.ca

LEGAL NOTICE

Section 17 of The Planning Act

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Regional Municipality of Niagara before the proposed official plan amendment is adopted, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Council of the Regional Municipality of Niagara to the Ontario Municipal Board.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Regional Municipality of Niagara before the proposed official plan amendment is adopted, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Municipal Board unless, in the opinion of the Board, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

If you wish to be notified of the adoption of the proposed Policy Plan Amendment, you must make a written request to the Regional Clerk and such request must include the name and address to which such notice should be sent.

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■ SHAW FESTIVAL



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Port Colborne High School drama students, from left, Rachel Roy, Alicia Madere and Katelyn Lander act out an assembly line during an artist-in-the-class workshop, a program run by Shaw Festival Theatre.

Port High students get a taste of Ragtime

FROM PAGE 19

The program includes an in-class workshop with one of the actors/acresses before they see a show, a backstage tour of Shaw and a post-show meeting with some of the cast.

Drama and dance teacher Amy Converset said students are heading to the theatre next week to see *Jamieson* and the other actors perform *Ragtime*.

"Shaw Festival is very supportive of high schools," Converset said just before the workshop started.

She said Jamieson was an adjudicator for the school's board monologue competition last November and

worked with three Port High students who took part in the event and had to present three-minute-long monologues.

Katelyn Lander, from Port High, took first place in that competition, and was one of the students who took part in Wednesday's workshop.

Lander, Rachel Roy and Alicia Madere were given the task of acting out an assembly line during the workshop.

All of the students involved had to act out a scene given to them by Jamieson and their fellow students had to try and guess what it was about.

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MYTH #2

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MYTH #3

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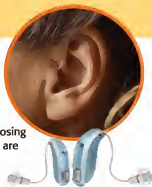
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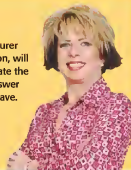
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